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ABSTRACT

Reported is a study of the subsequent dissemination of information by authors who presented material at a meeting of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). The results of the survey include the following: 57 percent of the authors submitted the material to journals, and, although some papers were not yet accepted, only one was rejected. Three percent of the authors still planned publication, and over half of the remaining 40 percent indicated that their presentations were not suitable for publication. Ninety percent of the material published appeared or will appear in the "ASHRAE Journal" or "ASHRAE Transactions". Within four months of the meeting, 67 percent of the material destined for publication had been published. The authors' publication plans reported at the meeting were not good predictors of their actual submissions: far more attempted journal publication than originally intended to do so. Twenty percent of the meeting presentations were disseminated only at the meeting. This report makes some recommendations to ASHRAE concerning this material. Some other characteristics of the publication behavior of the authors are identified, and a copy of the questionnaire used is appended. (Author/AL)

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Technical Note #9 April 1969

THE POSTMEETING PUBLICATION OF MATERIAL PRESENTED AT THE FEBRUARY 1968 SEMIANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING, AND AIR-CONDITIONING ENGINEERS[1]

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Introduction

The February 1968 Semiannual Meeting of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers was the occasion for a study of scientific and technological information exchange among heating, refrigerating, and air-conditioning engineers.[2] The study showed that the meeting provided the first public announcement of much recently completed work (on the average, authors started their work 2 1/3 years prior to the meeting and reached a stage at which they considered it reportable 7 months prior to the meeting). The study also indicated that at the time of the meeting only 55% of the presentation Authors definitely planned further written dissemination of their work. The main types of postmeeting dissemination planned were proceedings, transactions, or symposium publications (mentioned by 28% of the Authors) and journals (mentioned by 23%). This report presents the findings on the actual formal publication of this material during the year following the 1968 meeting.

Conduct of the Study

Approximately one year after the 1968 meeting, all authors of presentations at the meeting were sent follow-up questionnaires (Appendix A). These were designed to determine how much of the program material had been submitted for journal publication during the year following the meeting, what outlets were selected, what types of revisions were required, what reasons were given for rejection by the journal or for withdrawal of the manuscript by the author, what policies were encountered regarding page charges, and what types of further dissemination were planned. In addition, data were obtained from those authors

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[2] Johns Hopkins University Center for Research in Scientific Communication. The nature of program material and the result of interaction at the February 1968 Semiannual Meeting of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, JHU-CRSC Report #8. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins Center for Research in Scientific Communication, April 1968.

who had not yet submitted their presentation material for journal publication during the year following the meeting. These data included 1) the number of Authors still planning to do so and the reasons for the delay, and 2) the number not planning to do so and the reasons for this decision. Of the 88 authors who presented papers at the 1968 meeting, 71% (60) responded to the follow-up survey and 58% (51) returned both the original and the follow-up questionnaires.

Findings based on the follow-up questionnaires will be discussed first. Then data from those authors who responded to both the initial and the follow-up studies will be summarized. These data when combined allow comparison 1) of premeeting dissemination of program material with postmeeting dissemination, and 2) of publication plans reported at the time of the original study with the status of such plans a year later.

Findings of the Follow-Up Study of Authors

During the year following the February 1968 Semiannaul ASHRAE Meeting, 57% (34) of the 60 responding Authors submitted the main content of their presentations for journal publication.[3] The work of 42% (25) was published during this period; the work of 7% (4) was accepted but not yet published, and the work of 8% (5) was submitted to, but not yet accepted by, journals.

The remaining 43% (26) of the Authors had not submitted manuscripts for journal publication during the year following the meeting. Two still planned to do so. One of these two Authors stated that the delay was due to the need to collect additional data, and the other, to insufficient time to prepare the manuscript.

Forty percent (24) of the Authors, for reasons which appear in Table 1, had neither submitted their work for publication nor intended to do so. Over half (54%)

[3]Throughout this report, ASHRAE Transactions will be considered a journal.

Table 1

REASONS FOR NONSUBMISSION OF PROGRAM MATERIAL TO JOURNALS

Reasons	Authors N=24
Presentation created specifically for meeting and no further formal dissemination appropriate	54.2%
Information sufficiently available in another format	25.0
Insufficient time to conform to editorial formalities and policies	8.3
Significant information not worth time & effort to write up	4.2
Would not reach appropriate audience through journal publication	4.2
Other	4.2

of these Authors indicated that the presentations were created specifically for the meeting and that no further formal dissemination was considered appropriate. An additional 25% felt that the information was sufficiently available in other forms. Three Authors mentioned books or parts of books, two mentioned technical reports, and one, each, mentioned proceedings, an informal mimeographed report, and a premeeting journal article.

The major findings relative to those Authors whose work was published or accepted appear in Table 2. Only a tenth of the Authors in these groups indicated that they had incorporated into their manuscripts work which was additional to that included in their meeting presentations.

The work of the 29 published or accepted Authors appeared or will appear in four different journals. Two of these (ASHRAE Journal and ASHRAE Transactions) will have published 90% of this material. The distribution of the submission and publication dates for all published or accepted manuscripts appear in Figure 1, which shows a median submission date of the month of the meeting and a median publication date of three months after the meeting.

Only four (14%) of the published or accepted Authors were required to revise their manuscripts prior to acceptance. For three of these Authors the revisions involved minor stylistic changes; the fourth was required to make his manuscript more concise. None of the published or accepted Authors had submitted their manuscripts to journals other than the ones by which they were published or accepted. The great majority of Authors (72%) indicated that page charges were absorbed by the journals (see Table 2).

Almost a fourth (24%) of the published or accepted Authors planned additional dissemination of the material. Three Authors indicated they would produce additional journal articles, two would give colloquia, one would present

Table 2

AUTHORS' RESPONSES IN RELATION TO PRINCIPAL TOPICS IN SURVEY

Topics		Authors N=29[a]
Inclusion in article of work in addition to that contained in meeting presentation		10.3%
Outlets publishing or accepting program material		
ASHRAE Journal	58.6%	
ASHRAE Transactions	31.0	
Journal of the Acoustical Society of America	3.4	
Bulletin of ASHRAE	3.4	
Unspecified	3.4	
Revision of submitted manuscript necessary prior to acceptance		13.8
Assumption of page charges		
Journal	72.4%	
Employing institution	6.9	
Self	6.9	
Page charge information not provided	13.8	
Planned further dissemination of content of presentation in addition to post-meeting journal article		24.1

[a]The work of 25 Authors was published during the year following the meeting and that of four was accepted for publication

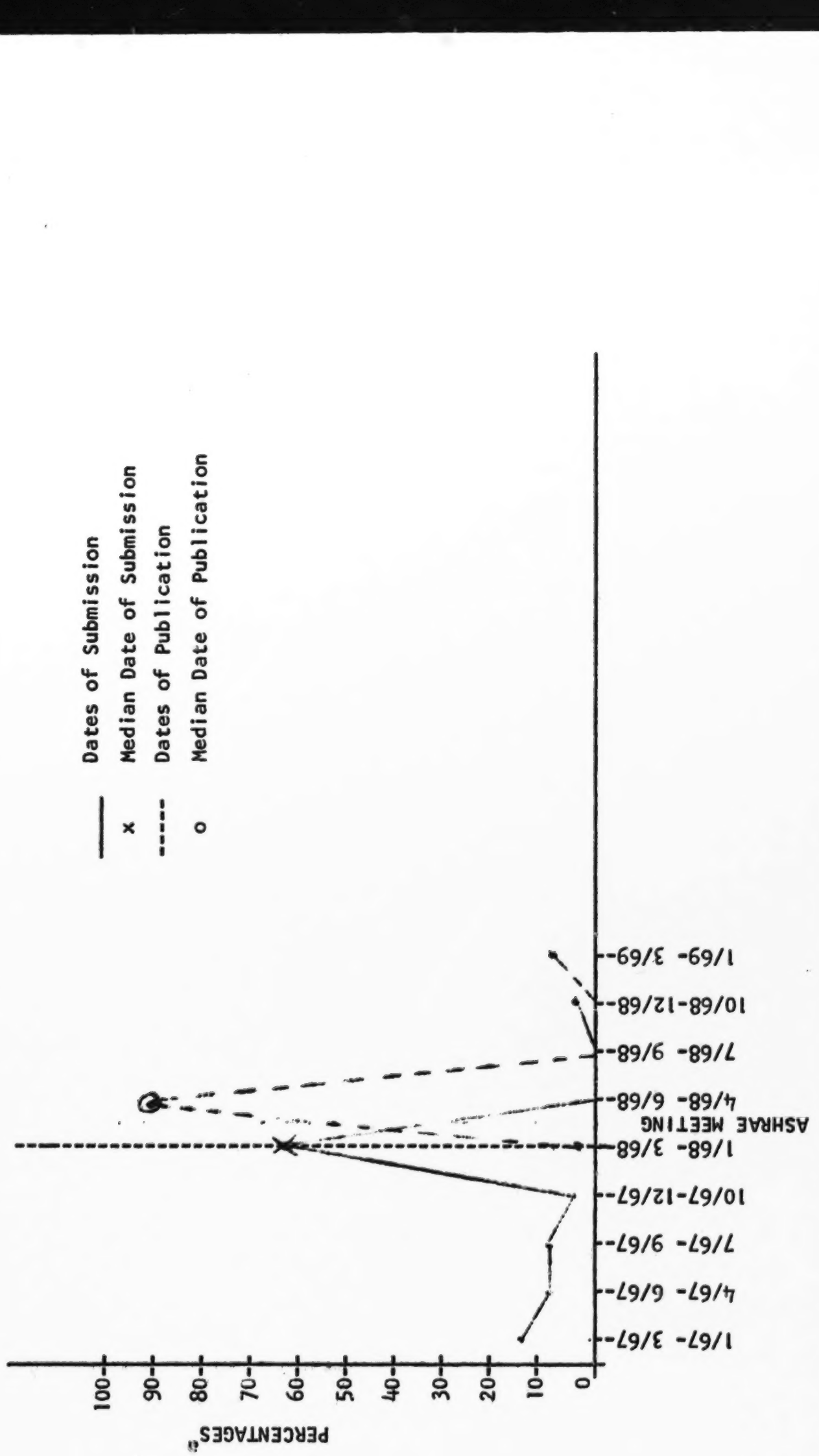

Figure 1: Dates of submission and of publication for those Authors whose manuscripts were published or accepted for publication within a year following the ASHRAE meeting.

[a]N for dates of submission is 26 as three did not provide this information; N for dates of publication is 24 as five Authors failed to provide this information.

the material at another professional meeting, and one, in a book.

The work of five Authors had been submitted but not yet accepted for journal publication. One of these Authors indicated that his manuscript was not currently being acted upon. He failed to indicate whether the manuscript had previously been rejected or whether he had chosen to withdraw it. The manuscripts of four of these Authors were in the hands of the editor of the ASHRAE Journal at the time of the survey, with submission typically having been just before the 1968 meeting (over one year before the survey). None of these Authors had previously submitted their work to other journals. (Given the short time lag between submission and publication for the other manuscripts studied, the long delay between submissior and publication for these four manuscripts seems peculiar).

Comparison of the Findings of the Initial and the Follow-Up Studies

This section of the report deals with the data from the 51 Authors who participated in both the initial and the follow-up studies. As Table 3 indicates, slightly more than a fourth (27.5%) of these Authors had presented their work in oral or written form prior to the meeting and had either submitted manuscripts for journal publication during the year following the meeting (25.5%) or still planned to do so (2%), more than a year later. A third (31%) of the Authors had not reported their work prior to the meeting but had submitted it for journal publication during the following year. A fifth had reported their work prior to the meeting but did not seek further dissemination in journals. There remains a rather large portion (22%) of the Authors who neither reported their work prior to the meeting nor intended to do so (in journals) afterward.

Table 4 compares Authors' publication plans at the time of the meeting with actual postmeeting journal dissemination, and shows that 29% of the Authors had planned journal publication at the time of the meeting and either had made or yet

Table 3

PRE- AND POSTMEETING DISSEMINATION OF PROGRAM MATERIAL

Dissemination	Authors N=51[a]
Work presented in oral and/or written form prior to meeting and submitted for journal publication, accepted, or published in year following meeting	25.5%
Work presented in oral and/or written form prior to meeting and journal publication planned though material not yet submitted (within year following meeting)	2.0
Work presented in oral and/or written form prior to meeting and no further dissemination in journal format planned	19.6
Work <u>not</u> presented in oral or written form prior to meeting but submitted for journal publication, accepted, or published within year following meeting	31.4
Work <u>not</u> presented in oral or written form prior to meeting but submission for journal publication planned more than a year following meeting	0.0
Work <u>not</u> presented in oral or written form prior to meeting and no dissemination in journal format planned	21.6

[a]Sixty-five Authors responded to the initial survey, 60 to the follow-up survey and 51 (58% of the 88) to both studies. This table presents data on the 51 for whom information from both studies was available.

Table 4

PLANNED AND ACTUAL DISSEMINATION OF PROGRAM MATERIAL

Dissemination Patterns	Authors N=51[a]
Journal publication planned at time of meeting and material submitted for journal publication, accepted, or published in the year following	27.4%
Journal publication planned at time of meeting and still planned though manuscript not yet submitted (within a year following meeting)	2.0
Journal publication planned at time of meeting, but plans changed or abandoned during year following meeting	5.9
Journal publication not planned at time of meeting, but material submitted for journal publication, accepted, or published during year following meeting	29.4
Journal publication not planned at time of meeting but now planned more than a year later	0.0
Journal publication not planned at time of meeting and no effort toward journal publication made subsequent to it	35.3

[a]This table presents data on those Authors (58%) who responded to both the initial study and the follow-up (one year later).

intended to make some effort to publish. Only 6% of the Authors had planned journal publication and subsequently abandoned these plans. Over a third (35%) of the presentations made at the meeting were neither intended for postmeeting journal publication nor was any effort made to publish them. A large number (29%) of the Authors, however, had not planned journal publication at the time of the meeting and later decided to submit their work.[4] Thus the postmeeting dissemination activities of only two-thirds of the Authors were consistent with their plans (stated at the time of the meeting) for subsequent dissemination of the material.

Summary

A follow-up study of the authors who presented program material at the February 1968 Semiannual Meeting of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers afforded data on the subsequent dissemination of that material during the year following the meeting. The principal findings are as follows:

1) During the year following the meeting, 57% of the Authors made efforts to publish the work they presented, in journals. The work of 42% had been published; the work of 7% had been accepted by journals but not yet published; and the work of 8% had been submitted to, but not yet accepted by, journals. Only 3% of the Authors still planned publication of their work a year after the meeting. The remaining 40% had neither submitted their work to journals during the year following the meeting nor intended to do so. Over half of this latter group indicated that their presentations were created specifically for the meeting and were not appropriate for further dissemination.

2) The 29 Authors whose work was accepted or published had submitted manuscripts, on the average, during the month of the meeting. The median publication

[4] Unsolicited comments by the respondents indicate that the editor of ASHRAE Journal will "pick up" a number of presentations to be published without having been formally submitted.

date was three months after the meeting. Ninety percent of this material appeared or will appear in either ASHRAE Journal or ASHRAE Transactions. A few of these Authors (14%) were required to make revisions (all of them minor) prior to acceptance.

3) Only 10% of the accepted or published Authors had incorporated into their manuscripts work which was not included in their presentations. Almost a fourth (24%) planned further dissemination of the same material (after journal publication), chiefly in other journal articles or at colloquia.

4) Only one of the 34 Authors who had submitted manuscripts during the year following the meeting had submitted it to a journal which had not accepted it.

5) The over-all dissemination pattern of information presented at the meeting indicates that within four months of the meeting, 67% of all the material destined for journal publication will have been published.

6) The findings relative to Authors who participated in both the initial and the follow-up studies indicate that a relatively large portion (22%) of the work presented at the meeting was neither disseminated in some form prior to the meeting nor intended for postmeeting journal publication.

7) The Authors' journal publication plans as reported at the time of the meeting were not consistent with or good predictors of their actual postmeeting dissemination activities. Far more actually attempted journal publication after the meeting than originally intended to do so.

The combined results of the original study of the ASHRAE semiannual meeting and the author follow-up study indicated that the meeting brought together, on a single occasion, a variety of recently completed work which was announced to a large group of engineers for the first time at the meeting, and which was then quickly disseminated via journals to the broader engineering community. It is of

special importance to the field that 90% of the meeting material which was or will be published appeared or will appear in only two journals. Thus the wide variety of material which is presented at a single ASHRAE meeting is not subsequently scattered throughout a large number of journals.

There is, however, a potential problem in the over-all communication system in heating, refrigerating, and air-conditioning engineering, and it is indicated by the fact that more than 20% of the meeting presentations were disseminated neither prior to the meeting nor afterward. Thus the meeting presentation itself was the only format in which a rather substantial portion of the meeting material will be disseminated. Most of the Authors who did not or will not make further dissemination of their meeting material indicated that their presentations were created specifically for the meeting and that no further dissemination was appropriate. It might be worthwhile, however, for ASHRAE to review this material and to determine whether it has, in fact, characteristics which make it worth presenting at the national meeting but which at the same time render it inappropriate for further dissemination.

APPENDIX A: FOLLOWUP AUTHOR QUESTIONNAIRE

Attached to the top of this page is the title of your presentation to

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HAS THE MAIN CONTENT OF THIS PRESENTATION BEEN SUBMITTED TO A SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL JOURNAL FOR PUBLICATION? **YES** _____ **NO** _____

If NO, please answer only the questions on the lower half of this page.

If YES, please check that one of the three statements below which best describes the current status of the manuscript.

☐ **SUBMITTED AND HAS BEEN PUBLISHED** (If you check this category, please answer only the questions on page 2.)

☐ **SUBMITTED AND ACCEPTED BUT NOT YET PUBLISHED** (If you check this category, please answer only questions on page 3.)

☐ **SUBMITTED BUT NOT YET ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION** (If you check this category, please answer only questions on page 4.)

MANUSCRIPT NOT SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION

1. If you have never submitted the main content of your presentation for journal publication, do you ever expect to do so?

Yes _____ No _____

If YES,

(a) Which of the following best describes your reasons for not submitting it sooner?

_____ work presented was part of a long-term project and is not yet ready to report in completed form

_____ needed to replicate or verify certain findings

_____ needed to perfect or test further the methodology employed

_____ needed additional data

_____ other (Please specify) _____

(b) What is the present status of your work?

_____ manuscript preparation definitely planned but not yet started

_____ manuscript currently in preparation

_____ other (Please specify) _____

If NO,

(a) Which of the following best describes your reason for not publishing the main content of your presentation in a journal?

_____ information sufficiently available in another form

_____ book or part of a book
_____ proceedings
_____ technical report
_____ nonscientific or nontechnical publication
_____ dissertation or thesis
_____ informal mimeographed report

_____ insufficient time to conform to editorial formalities and policies

_____ significant information not considered worth the time and effort to prepare it for formal journal publication

_____ presentation was specifically created for this meeting and no further formal dissemination of information was considered appropriate

_____ lost interest in field to which the significant information in the presentation was relevant

_____ significant information superseded

_____ would not reach the appropriate audience through journal publication

_____ financial support to meet page charges presented a problem

_____ other (Please specify) _____

_____

THANK YOU. PLEASE RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

MANUSCRIPT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED AND PUBLISHED

1. (a) In what journal was it published? _____

   (b) When was it published? _____ (month) _____ _____ (year)

   (c) When did you first submit it to this journal? _____ (month) _____ (year)

   (d) Does the article report other work in addition to that which you presented at the meeting? Yes ____ No _____

   If YES when was this additional work completed? Before the meeting ☐
   After the meeting ☐

   (e) Did the editor suggest any revisions in your manuscript prior to publication? Yes ____ No _____

   If YES, please briefly describe their nature _____
   (STATISTICAL, THEORETICAL, MAKE TREATMENT MORE CONCISE, ETC.)

2. Did you submit the manuscript to another journal prior to the one in which it was published? Yes ____ No _____

   If YES,

   a. Please name journal(s) and approximate date(s) you first submitted manuscripts to each.

Journal	Approximate Date (Month / Year)
_____	_____
_____	_____

   b. Which of the following statements best describes the reason that you did not publish the article in any of the above journals?

   _____ delay in editorial action

   _____ suggested revisions considered inappropriate

   _____ suggested revisions considered too demanding

   _____ not accepted by editor (Please indicate below reason for nonacceptance)

   _____ subject matter inappropriate

   _____ manuscript length inappropriate

   _____ statistical or methodological grounds

   _____ theoretical or interpretational grounds

   _____ controversial findings

   _____ other (Please describe in as much detail as you can) _____

   _____

   _____

   _____ other (Please describe) _____

   _____

3. Do you anticipate any further written or oral dissemination of this work? Yes _____ No _____
   If YES, in what form (colloquim, book, journal, etc.)? _____

4. By which of the following were page charges assumed?

   ___ your institution

   ___ your specific research project

   ___ the journal

   ___ yourself

THANK YOU. PLEASE RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

MANUSCRIPT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED AND ACCEPTED BUT NOT PUBLISHED

1. (a) In what journal will it be published? _____

   (b) Approximately when will it be published? _____ (month) _____ _____ (year)

   (c) When did you first submit it to this journal? _____ (month) _____ (year)

   (d) Will the article report other work in addition to that which you presented at the meeting?

   Yes _____ No _____

   If YES, when was this additional work completed? Before the meeting ☐

   After the meeting ☐

   (e) Did the editor suggest any revisions in your manuscript? Yes _____ No _____

   If YES, please briefly describe their nature _____

   (STATISTICAL, THEORETICAL, MAKING TREATMENT MORE CONCISE, ETC.)

2. Did you submit the manuscript to another journal prior to the one in which it will be published?

   Yes _____ No _____

   If YES,

   a. Please name journal(s) and approximate date(s) you first submitted manuscripts to each.

Journal	Approximate Date (Month/Year)
_____	_____
_____	_____

   b. Which of the following statements best describes the reason that you did not publish the article in any of the above journals?

   _____ delay in editorial action

   _____ suggested revisions considered inappropriate

   _____ suggested revisions considered too demanding

   _____ not accepted by editor (Please indicate below reason for nonacceptance)

   _____ subject matter inappropriate

   _____ manuscript length inappropriate

   _____ statistical or methodological grounds

   _____ theoretical or interpretational grounds

   _____ controversial findings

   _____ other (Please describe in as much detail as you can) _____

   _____

   _____

   _____ other (Please describe) _____

   _____

3. Do you anticipate any further written or oral dissemination of this work?

   Yes _____ No _____

   If YES, in what form (colloquium, book, journal, etc.)? _____

4. Which of the following will assume page charges?

   _____ your institution _____ the journal

   _____ your specific research project _____ yourself

THANK YOU. PLEASE RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMITTED BUT HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

1. Did the manuscript which you submitted report other work in addition to that which you presented at the meeting?
   Yes _____ No _____
   If YES, when was this additional work completed? Before the meeting ☐
   After the meeting ☐

2. Is your manuscript currently being acted upon by an editor of a journal? Yes _____ No _____
   If YES,
   (a) What is the name of journal? _____
   (b) When did you submit it to this journal? _____ (month) _____ (year)
   (c) Did you submit the manuscript to any other journal(s) prior to this one which is presently considering it?
   Yes _____ No _____. (If NO, skip to question #4).
   If YES, please name journal(s) and give approximate date(s) you first submitted manuscripts to each.

Journal	Approximate Date (Month/Year)
_____	_____
_____	_____

   If NO,
   (a) Please name journal(s) to which you have submitted your manuscript and give approximate date(s) of submission.

Journal	Approximate Date (Month/Year)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. If editorial action was taken when you submitted your manuscript to any of the above journals, which of the following statements best describes the reason that you did not publish it in them?
   _____ delay in editorial action
   _____ suggested revisions considered inappropriate
   _____ suggested revisions considered too demanding
   _____ not accepted by editor (Please indicate below reason for nonacceptance)
   _____ subject matter inappropriate
   _____ manuscript length inappropriate
   _____ statistical or methodological grounds
   _____ theoretical or interpretational grounds
   _____ controversial findings
   _____ other (Please describe in as much detail as you can) _____
   _____
   _____
   _____ other (Please describe) _____
   _____

4. Do you anticipate any further written or oral dissemination of this work?
   Yes _____ No _____
   If YES, in what form (colloquium, book, journal, etc.)? _____

5. If accepted for publication, which of the following will assume page charges?
   _____ your institution _____ your specific research project _____ the journal _____ yourself

THANK YOU. PLEASE RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.